

Surgeon General's Office

LIBRARY

Section, *Rare Case*

No. *84026.*



A N *Extra Title*

ACCOUNT

Of the Numbers that have died of the

Distemper in the Throat,

Within the Province of

New-Hampshire,

With some Reflections thereon.

July 26. 1736.

84026



B O S T O N :

Printed for Eleazer Russel in Portsmouth.

1736,

ALCOHOL

Chemical and Physical Properties

By J. H. Stoddard

Author of "The Elements of Chemistry"

Second Edition

Published by J. H. Stoddard

New York

1880

1880

1880

Printed by J. H. Stoddard

An Account of the Numbers that
have died of the *Distemper in the*
Throat, within the Province of
New-Hampshire.

WE in the Province of *New-Hamp-*
shire (with the neighbouring Places)
have had frequent Occasion to re-
peat that doleful Lamentation;
Death is come up into our Windows to cut off the Chil-
dren from without. — And 'tis fit that the extra-
ordinary Mortality which has been among us,
should be ever remembered to our Humiliation;
in order to which a particular Account of the
Numbers that have died, in the several Towns
within this Province, mostly the last Winter, is
here presented to the Publick.

Tho' some have died of sundry Ages, yet the far
greatest part were under *Ten Years* of Age; and
Providence having made such a remarkable Dis-
tinction, I thought it proper to take Notice of it
in the following Account.

In *Portsmouth*,

In the upper part of the Town have died,

Under Ten about ———— 40.

Between Ten and Fifteen ——— 6.

Above Twenty ——— 1.

Two have died out of sundry Families, Four out of one. Some Families have lost their only Child, and some who had but two Children have lost both of them.

In the lower part of the Town have died,

Under Ten ——— 27.

Between Ten and Twenty ——— 2.

Above Forty ——— 1.

Two Families lost three, one of which lost all, who were buried at the same time. One Family lost four.

In that Part of Portsmouth call'd the *Plaines*, died,

Under Ten ——— 14.

Between Ten and Twenty ——— 7.

Above Forty ——— 1.

Two Families lost four a-piece.

In *New-Castle* died,

Under Ten ——— 11.

At the *Shoals* have died,

Under Seven ——— 34.

Between Ten and Fifteen ——— 2.

About Sixty ——— 1.

One Family lost three, six Families lost two a-piece; no Family lost all.

In *Rye* have died,

Under Ten ——— 34.

Between Ten and Fifteen ——— 6.

Above Fifteen ——— 4.

Two Families lost three, one of which lost all, one Family lost four, and one five.

In *Greenland* have died,

Under Ten	_____	13.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	_____	2.
Between Twenty and Thirty	_____	3.
Two Families lost their only Child.		

In *Newington* have died,

Under Ten	_____	16.
Between Ten and Fifteen	_____	4.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	_____	1.

One Family lost *four*, two lost *three*, one of which lost all.

In *Hampton*,

In the first Parish have died,

Under Ten	_____	37.
Between Ten and Fifteen	_____	4.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	_____	4.
Between Twenty and Thirty	_____	8.
Above Thirty	_____	1.
Above <i>Ninety</i>	_____	1.

A Woman, who had the manifest Symptoms of the Distemper upon her.

Five Families lost *three* out of each, one Family lost *four*, one lost *five*, within about a Fortnight, the Eldest dying first, and then the next Eldest, 'till the fifth died, and a sixth Child liv'd.

Three Families lost their only Child.

In the second Parish of *Hampton* have died,

Under Ten about	_____	160.
Between Ten and Fifteen about	_____	25.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	_____	15.
Above Twenty, the eldest of which was		
nigh Forty	_____	10.

All of these except a small Number died of the late fatal Distemper.

Nigh

Nigh Twenty Families lost all their Children, Twenty two lost all their Sons, most of them being only Sons. One Family lost *seven*, (six Children and a 'Prentice Boy) Two Families lost *six* a piece, Two Families lost *five* a piece, Six Families lost *four* a piece; about fourteen Families lost *three* a piece.

Forty nine died in the Month of *December*.

'Tis suppos'd that more than a sixth part of the Number of Inhabitants in that Parish have died, within 13 Months.

In *Exeter* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	105.
Under Fifteen	— — — — —	13.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	— — — — —	5.
Above Twenty	— — — — —	4.

Two Families lost each *three*, Two Families lost each *four*, Two Families lost each *five*, of which one lost all, and the other had one spar'd.

The Distemper came into *Exeter* the Beginning of *August*, 1735.

In *Stratham* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	18.
One Family lost	<i>four</i> .	

In *Newmarket* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	20.
Under Fifteen	— — — — —	1.
Above Thirty	— — — — —	1.

One Family lost *five*, Four Families lost all their Children, one of them *two*, and the other *one* a piece.

In *Kingston* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	96.
Between		

Between Ten and Fifteen	— — —	10.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	— —	3.
Above Twenty	— — — — —	1.
Above Thirty	— — — — —	1.

One Family that had four Children lost them all, another lost *four* out of six; Six Families lost *three* each, one of which had but three.

The Distemper came into *Kingston* the latter end of *May*, 1735.

In *Chester* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	21.
-----------	-----------	-----

One Family lost *three*.

In *Dover* have died,

Under Ten	— — — — —	77.
Between Ten and Fifteen	— —	5.
Between Fifteen and Twenty	— —	3.
Between Twenty and Thirty	— —	3.

Sundry Families lost their only Child, and others that had but *two* lost them both. Five Families lost *three* Children a piece, one of which buried *three* in one Day. Two Families lost *four*, and one of them buried *four* in a Day. One Family lost *six* Children, and *four* were buried at once.

This Distemper began among them in *October*, 1735.

In *Durham* have died,

Under Ten about	— — — — —	79.
Under Twenty about	— — — — —	15.
Between Twenty and Thirty about	—	6.

Three Families lost *four* Children a piece, each of which lost all but one. Three Families lost all. The Distemper began among them in *September*.

In the Lower Parish of *Kittery*, a neighbouring Town to *Portsmouth*, in the other Province have died, ————— 122.

No more than *six* exceeded Fifteen Years, and not more than *six* arriv'd to Fifteen Years. These have died from *June* 1735, to the 16th of *July*, 1736.

According to the foregoing Accounts, there have died,

In <i>Portsmouth</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	99.
In <i>Newcastle</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	11.
At the Shoals,	—————	—————	—————	37.
In <i>Rye</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	44.
In <i>Greenland</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	18.
In <i>Newington</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	21.
In <i>Hampton</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	265.
In <i>Exeter</i> , including <i>Newmarker</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	149.
In <i>Stratham</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	18.
In <i>Kingston</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	113.
In <i>Chester</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	21.
In <i>Dover</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	88.
In <i>Durham</i> ,	—————	—————	—————	100.

The whole Number is, 984.

The Distemper began much later in most of the Towns than in the rest.

Since I receiv'd the Account from some of the Towns, the Distemper has come into sundry more Families, and prov'd mortal to some of their Children.

I shall here take Occasion to give some Hints referring to this awful Providence, which every judicious Person may easily enlarge upon in his own Thoughts.

The Grave is a Land of Darkneſs without any Order, which has of late been remarkably ſeen, in reſpect of the Age of thoſe that have been brought to it, when ſo many Younger ones have gone to *their long Home* before the Elder: Yet every one may be ſaid to die *in his own Order*, in reſpect of God's appointment, who has determin'd the Time of every ones Death, and without whoſe Providence *not a Sparrow falls to the Ground*; which is a good Reason why we ſhould be ſilent and ſubmiſſive under ſuch heavy Trials.

The Death of many Children before they were arriv'd to Years of Diſcretion, ſhews the woful Effects of Original Sin, and gives us all juſt Occaſion to make the ſame humble Reflection on our ſelves that *David* did, *Behold, I was ſhapen in Iniquity, and in Sin did my Mother conceive me*: On which Account we might juſtly have been cut off in the Beginning of our Days, but God has ſpar'd us in the greatneſs of his Mercy.

In conſideration of the above-mentioned Mortality, which has been chiefly among Children, young ones ſhould be awaken'd to ſeek after God betimes, when they ſee thoſe that were as young, or younger than themſelves, taken out of the Land of the Living. 'Tis ſtoried of a Child that was noted to be ſerious and religiously diſpos'd, and one asking the Reason hereof, the Child ſaid, I remember I muſt die; but being told you are likely to live many a Year longer, the Child reply'd, I was lately at a Funeral, where I ſaw a Grave ſhorter than my ſelf. Many ſuch ſad Spectacles have been to be ſeen of late, O! that our Chil-

dren that are arriv'd to any Years of Discretion
 were so wise as to consider their latter End, when
 they have had so frequent Warnings of it. Let
 Children remember their Creator and Redeemer in
 their early Days, lest these should be all the Days
 they shall ever have to remember them in. Ma-
 ny dear Children have been laid in their Graves,
 where there is no remembrance of God; those that
 survive are very inexcusable if they do not lay it
 to Heart, so as seriously to think of their own
 dying, and instantly to prepare for it. Let Chil-
 dren consider that they are Sinners, or else they
 would not be liable to the Stroke of Death, and
 they have no more assurance of living long, than
 those Children had, that are now gone down into Si-
 lence; and let them think sadly what a doleful
 Condition they will be in, if they should die in
 their Sins; and let them speedily seek an Interest in
 Jesus Christ, who alone can save them from their
 Sins, and who has said for their Encouragement,
Those that seek me early shall find me. Let every
 Child set himself to learn and understand his Ca-
 techism, and learn to be good betimes. A Pious
 Child is the Delight of God and Angels. Let eve-
 ry Child learn to pray, and daily go alone and beg
 of God, that for his Mercy's sake and for Christ's
 sake, He would forgive his original Sin and all his
 actual Sins, and that He would give him a new
 Heart and put a new Spirit within him, and cause
 him to love Him above all, and to take heed of
 offending Him any more by sinful Thoughts, by
 wicked Words or vicious Deeds. And O! that
 all our Children would remember the Sabbath-Day

To keep it holy, not spending it in Play or Idleness; but in diligent reading of the holy Bible and other good Books, and in a diligent attendance on the Worship of God, Private and Publick. Such Children may hope that God will own them for his Children, that He will take them under his Protection, and that they shall live, so long as an All wise God sees Life would be good for them in this World, and if they should be cut off in their younger Days (as many others have been) God will satisfy them with long Life, even with Length of Days for ever and ever in a better World.

It has been observ'd concerning several Children, that their Spirits have been strangely supported in the Agonies of Death; they have shew'd a becoming submission to the Divine Will, and expressed good Hopes of being received to a better World; and utter'd such things as yielded great Consolation to their sorrowful Parents. *Out of the Mouth of Babes and Sucklings God can perfect Praise.*

The great Mortality that has been among Children, should make Parents very sensible, that their Children are *uncertain* Comforts, and should quicken them to a faithful Discharge of their Duty towards their Children, by sincerely dedicating them to God, and by training them up in the Knowledge and Fear of God. This will be the way for them to have Comfort in their Children, whether Living or Dying.

Elder ones should adore the Power and Patience of God in prolonging their frail and forfeited Lives; and when they see so many younger and more Innocent than themselves, taken away in such an awful manner, they have reason to *make haste and not delay to keep God's Commandments*, lest He should be provok'd to inflict the like awful Judgment upon them: And some of sundry Ages having been taken away

by this woful Distemper, it should serve for the awakening of all; for what has befallen others may also befall any of us.

How awakening especially should the Death of Children be to their Parents? When the first-born of the *Egyptians* were smitten, they said, *We be all dead Men*. Parents are strangely stupid, if the Death of their Children does not put them in mind of their own Mortality. And it should cause them to consider wherein they may have offended God; as the Woman said to the Man of God, *Art thou come to call my Sin to remembrance, and to slay my Son?*

But we are not to look upon the immediate sufferers in this Calamity as greater Sinners than others: Our Saviour checks this censorious Humour, *Suppose ye that these Galileans were Sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffer'd such Things? I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*

And it must be granted, that the Good are often involv'd with the Bad in Publick Calamities; but God can and will make *all things work together for good* to those particular Persons that love his Name.

We read of a hopeful Child in the House of *Jereboam*, that died when he was young, whereby he was taken away from the Evil to come: When hopeful Children are taken away, we know not what Evil may be coming; it concerns us speedily to *acquaint our selves with God and make our Peace with Him, and then Good shall come unto us.*

Many have been bereav'd of their only Child, and others who have had more Children have been bereav'd of them all; but there is enough in God to make up all our Losses in the Creature: And those that seek Him in good earnest shall find Him *better to them, than ten Sons.*

Sundry have been raised up from a very low estate; for the Lord killeth and maketh alive, He bringeth
down

down to the Grave and bringeth up, which may be understood either of the Distinction He makes between some and others ; He killeth some, and maketh or keepeth others alive, that were attended with the same threatening Symptoms, which must be resolv'd into the Sovereign Pleasure of God ; *even so Father, because it seemed good in thine Eyes* ; or it may be understood of the Change He makes in the same Person, whom He brings down to the Brink of the Grave, and raises up when He pleases. Our Eyes have beheld many such Instances of the Wonder-working Providence of God.

And the Distemper that has prov'd mortal to so many, and very grievous to others, has hitherto been escap'd by many, or they have had it in a moderate Degree. Such distinguishing Favours call for great Thankfulness.

Let those Families whom God has mercifully spar'd, so as not to make any Breach upon them, *not be high-minded, but fear* : The discriminating Goodness of God towards them should lead them to Repentance, and they are deeply oblig'd, *If Iniquity be in their Hands, to put it far away, and not to suffer Wickedness to dwell in their Tabernacles.*

Those Parents that have been bereav'd of one or two of their Children, and have had others spar'd to them, when they consider how many have lost a greater Number, and that several have been bereav'd of all their Children, they have great Reason to be silent both in Heart and Tongue, under the Loss that they have sustained, and to bless the Name of God, that He has not dealt so severely by them, as He has by some others, acknowledging that *it is of the Lord's free and undeserved Mercies that they and their's have not been consumed.*

And it becomes us all as the Elect of God to put on Bowels of Mercies towards those sorrowful Parents, that

that have lost sundry of their Children, and especially those that have been bereav'd of all, and we ought to present our fervent Requests before the Throne of Grace in their behalf, that as their *Sorrows abound*, so the *Divine Consolations may abound* towards them; and tho' they are ready to think as good *Jacob* once did, that *these things are against* them, we should pray that they may be really *for* them, in the Issue, that they may work for their spiritual and everlasting Good.

Tho' Days of Fasting and Prayer have been observ'd in the Beginning of this fatal Calamity, 'tis to be fear'd they were not attended with a suitable Reformation; and therefore God has *answer'd us by terrible things in Righteousness*.

We have for some Years been free from the Calamity of War, but God has many *Arrows* of Judgment in his Quiver, and He can send such Epidemical Diseases among us, as shall be more distressing to the Country in general, than any Wars that we have ever experienced.

We were some Years ago visited with a terrible *Earthquake*, which was a loud Call to Repentance, but the good impressions made by that awful Providence were soon worn off in most Places; 'tis no wonder then that God proceeds to real inflictions of Judgments, when we have forgotten the awful Warning He has given us thereof.

The Progress of the late Distemper has been very strange in its passing from one Town to another, after a considerable space of Time, and in its long remaining in one part of a Town, before it has pass'd into other parts, and in its returning where it seem'd to be quite gone and the Fears of it were blown over; on these Accounts the Act of Providence is the more visible in sending it, and we are led to look beyond natural Causes to the Hand of God, to whom we

are chiefly concern'd to apply our selves, for the Removal of this awful Calamity.

We know not what the Designs of Providence may be, but by what we hear of the spreading of this Distemper in other parts of the Country, it seems as if the Lord *were risen up out of his holy Habitation* and coming forth in this awful manner against the whole Continent. It therefore concerns all Places and Persons to *prepare to meet the Lord* in the way of his Judgments, by unfeigned Repentance and humble Supplication, that He may *turn from the fierceness of his Anger*.

The Loss of so many Children, whom if it had pleas'd God that they had liv'd, might have built up many Families, will be a great Prevention of the Growth and Increase of the Country; and ought therefore to be lookt upon as a Frown of Providence upon the Land in general, as well as a sore Affliction to the Parents in particular.

We should seriously enquire *wherefore* the Almighty has thus *contended* with us? We have Reason to look upon the *strange* unusual Distemper that has prevail'd among us, as the Fruit of *strange* Sins. Have not many *strangely* neglected the great Salvation? Have not many Professors of Religion *strangely* contradicted their Profession in their Lives? Have not many been *strangely* guilty of prophaning God's sacred Name and Sabbaths? Have not many People been *strangely* addicted some to one Vice and some to another? To Pride, Envy, Malice, Evil speaking, Fraud and Injustice, Strife and Contention, Sensuality & Intemperance, or to a worldly Spirit, whereby they have been dispos'd to be *strangely* grasping after the World for the sake of their Children: But God by the late awful Providence, has shew'd how vain a thing it is for Parents to be inordinate in their Desires and Endeavours, to lay up for their Chil-

Children, when they know not whether their Children shall live to enjoy what they have laid up for them.

It concerns us all to search and try our Ways, and turn unto the Lord, and diligently hearken to his Voice, the Voice of his Rod as well as Word, and to do that which is right in his Sight, and to give ear to his Commandments and keep all his Statutes; we may then expect the like Favour from Him, which He promis'd to his ancient People; *I will put none of those Diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians; for I am the Lord that healeth thee.*

F I N I S

To The Rev. M^r

Isaac Stiles at B. Southwark
Quincy





